

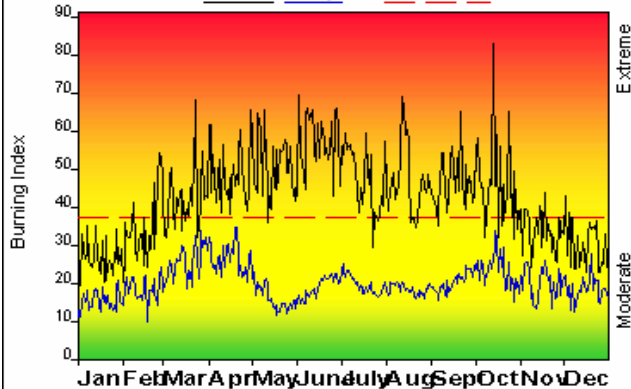


SOUTHWEST COLORADO



FIRE DANGER -- Western Grasses

Maximum, Average, and 90th Percentile



Fire Danger Area:

- Fuel Model A Grasses
- DRC Forecast Zone 207
- Chapin, Mesa Mtn

Fuel Model A Western Grass

Fire Danger Interpretation:



- EXTREME** -- Use extreme caution
- (Caution)** -- Watch for change
- Moderate** -- Lower Potential, but always be aware

Maximum -- Highest Burning Index by day for 1972 - 2005

Average -- shows peak fire season

90th Percentile -- Only 10% of the days from 1972 - 2005 had an Burning Index above 37

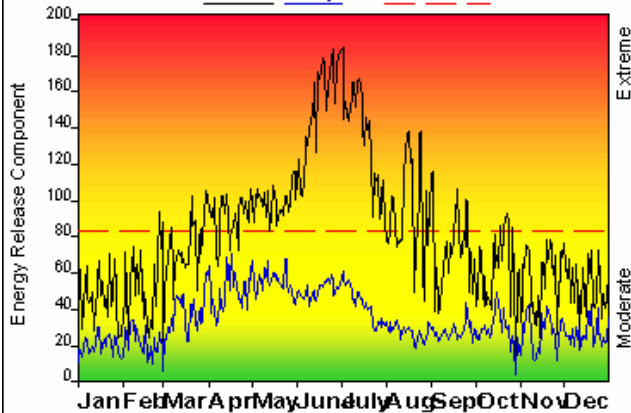
Local Thresholds - Watch out: Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior:
20' Wind Speed over 15 mph, RH less than 20%,
Temperature over 90, Herbaceous Fuel Moisture less than 60

Fuel Model A WESTERN GRASSLANDS - This fuel model represents western grasslands vegetated by annual grasses and forbs. Brush or trees may be present but are very sparse, occupying less than a third of the area. Within Southwest Colorado at elevations below 8,000', Fuel Model A are used in areas where we find cheat grass, medusa head, and OPEN pinion-juniper, sagebrush-grass, and shrub areas with a relatively low density of woody plants. The quantity and continuity of the ground fuels vary greatly with rainfall from year to year.

Dates to Remember: Moccasin, 7/15/03, 2,744 Acres, BI-45, ERC-60
Hogan, 6/21/86, 5,500 Acres, BI-15, ERC-20

FIRE DANGER -- Mature Brush

Maximum, Average, and 90th Percentile



Fire Danger Area:

- Fuel Model B - Brush
- DRC Forecast Zone 207
- Morfield

Fuel Model B Mature Brush

Fire Danger Interpretation:



- EXTREME** -- Use extreme caution
- (Caution)** -- Watch for change
- Moderate** -- Lower Potential, but always be aware

Maximum -- Highest Energy Release Component by day for 1984 - 2005

Average -- shows peak fire season

90th Percentile -- Only 10% of the days from 1984 - 2005 had an Energy Release Component above 82

Local Thresholds - Watch out: Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior:
20' Wind Speed over 15 mph, RH less than 20%,
Temperature over 90, Woody fuel Moisture less than 90

Fuel Model B MATURE BRUSH - Mature brush in Southwest Colorado is comprised mainly of Gambel oak brush. In many areas, approximately 1/4 of the aerial fuels in the stands are dead due to extended drought and frost kill. However, live oak, with low moisture can exhibit extreme fire behavior as well. Oak is common under ponderosa pine and can act as a ladder fuel. Continuous stands of mature brush can burn extremely fast and exhibit extreme fire behavior. Be aware of extreme fire behavior with an ERC of 76 or greater. Other environmental factors that are conducive to extreme fire behavior are winds greater than 15 MPH, relative humidity under 20%, and live fuel moistures below 90%. Several fatality and entrapment fires have occurred in this fuel type. Strong winds associated with dry frontal passages are extremely dangerous. Mature brush stands can be generally found above 7,000 feet. Some pinyon and juniper stands will burn and exhibit fire behavior similar to this fuel model. Recent pinyon pine mortality has resulted in a high increase in large dead fuels and fine dead aerial fuels in these stands. Other shrubs and the increase in cheat and other grasses have resulted in fire behavior that is comparable to the mature brush fuel model.

Dates to Remember: Pony Fire, 8/2/00, 3,888 Acres, BI-55, ERC-65,
Chapin 5 Fire, 8/18/96, 4,781 Acres, BI-30, ERC-37

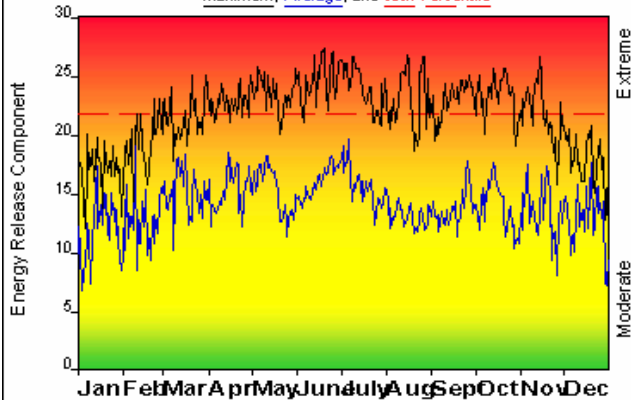


SOUTHWEST COLORADO



FIRE DANGER -- Ponderosa Pine

Maximum, Average, and 90th Percentile



Fire Danger Area:

- Fuel Model C - Ponderosa
- DRC Forecast Zone 207
- Salter, Devil, Sandoval

Fuel Model C Ponderosa Pine

Fire Danger Interpretation:



- EXTREME** -- Use extreme caution
- (Caution)** -- Watch for change
- Moderate** -- Lower Potential, but always be aware

Maximum -- Highest Energy Release Component by day for 1984 - 2005

Average -- shows peak fire season

90th Percentile -- Only 10% of the days from 1984 - 2005 had an Energy Release Component above 22

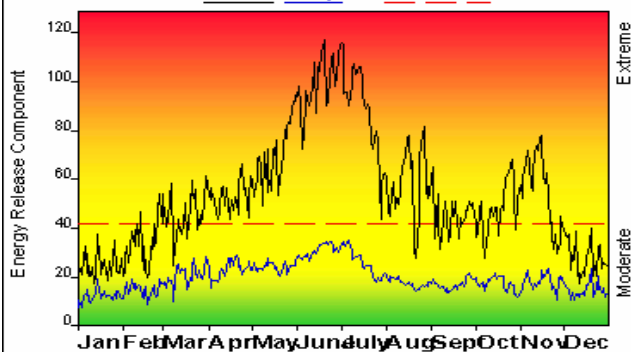
Local Thresholds - Watch out: Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior:
20' Wind Speed over 15 mph, RH less than 20%,
Temperature over 90, 10-Hour Fuel Moisture less than 7

Fuel Model C PONDEROSA PINE (7,000' to 9,000') - Open ponderosa pine stands with a Grass and Gambel oak understory typify Model C fuels in Southwestern Colorado. Grass, and Pine needle litter, Gambel oak litter and branchwood are the primary carriers of the fire. Perennial grasses and forbs can either contribute to, or retard, fire spread depending upon live fuel moistures and time of year. Oak brush and other shrubs are usually present and will contribute significantly to the fire behavior depending on their densities and height. Rates of spread are typically slower than Fuel Model C in other areas; however, flame length and fireline intensity is greater. Torching and spotting are common, especially when the brush interconnects with the pine canopy. Because of the open canopy, group torching is more common than crown runs. Sustained crown runs are rare and generally occur only in extreme conditions of drought and wind.

Dates to Remember: Disappointment Fire, 7/20/96, 3,840 Acres, BI-40, ERC-40
Missionary Ridge Fire, 6/9/02, 73,121 Acres, BI-80, ERC- 60

FIRE DANGER -- Oak Brush

Maximum, Average, and 90th Percentile



Fire Danger Area:

- Fuel Model F - Oak Brush
- DRC Forecast Zone 207
- All Except Morfield

Fuel Model F Oak Brush

Fire Danger Interpretation:



- EXTREME** -- Use extreme caution
- (Caution)** -- Watch for change
- Moderate** -- Lower Potential, but always be aware

Maximum -- Highest Energy Release Component by day for 1972 - 2005

Average -- shows peak fire season

90th Percentile -- Only 10% of the days from 1972 - 2005 had an Energy Release Component above 41

Local Thresholds - Watch out: Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior:
20' Wind Speed over 15 mph, RH less than 20%,
Temperature over 90, Woody fuel Moisture less than 120

Fuel Model F OAK BRUSH - The Gambel Oak fuel type in Southwest Colorado is generally found between 7,000 and 8,500 feet elevation. Fuels generally consist of Gambel Oak (0 - 25 feet tall) with Ponderosa Pine overstory, oak being the primary carrier of fire and facilitates the transition for crown fire initiation in the pine. Pockets (50-80 acres) of pure Gambel Oak are randomly intermixed in this zone, primarily on south aspects. A majority of the pine/oak zone is characterized by gentle rolling topography. Gambel Oak that has been pre-heated by fire has potential to re-burn. Frost damaged oak may exhibit extreme fire behavior. Other environmental factors that are conducive to extreme fire behavior are winds greater than 15 MPH, relative humidity under 20%, and live fuel moistures below 90%. Soil moisture is heavily depleted by Gambel Oak, causing additional stress on the Ponderosa Pine in and around oak clumps. This is likely a mixed severity fire regime fuel type, with a fire frequency from 1 to 22 years.

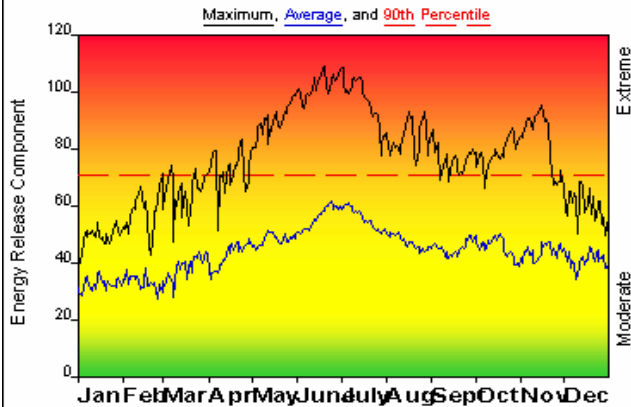
Dates to Remember: Bircher Fire, 7/20/00, 23,220 Acres, BI-47, ERC-55
West Toe Fire, 6/21/86, 5,500 Acres, BI-28, ERC-35



SOUTHWEST COLORADO



FIRE DANGER -- Pinyon/Juniper Heavy Dead



Fire Danger Area:

- Fuel Model G - P/J - Low
- DRC Forecast Zone 207
- All RAWS Stations

Fuel Model G Pinyon/Juniper Heavy Dead

Fire Danger Interpretation:



- EXTREME** -- Use extreme caution
- (Caution)** -- Watch for change
- Moderate** -- Lower Potential, but always be aware

Maximum -- Highest Energy Release Component by day for 1964 - 2005

Average -- shows peak fire season

90th Percentile -- Only 10% of the days from 1964 - 2005 had an Energy Release Component above 71

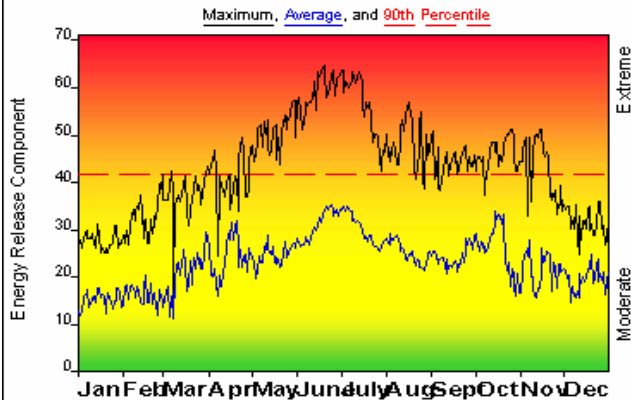
Local Thresholds - Watch out: Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior:
20' Wind Speed over 15 mph, RH less than 20%,
Temperature over 90, 10-Hour Fuel Moisture less than 7

Fuel Model G PINYON/JUNIPER (HEAVY DEAD) LOW ELEVATION (Under 8,500)

Pinyon/Juniper stands with high mortality due to drought, insect or disease are represented by Fuel Model G can be found throughout Southwestern Colorado at elevations ranging from 5,000 to 8,500 feet. These stands may have a large diameter dead component similar to other G represented stands yet will unlikely have the continuous, heavy buildup of duff or litter layer. Fuel Model G measures long-term drought more effectively than other fuel models with a smaller dead component such as Fuel Model F. Stands most represented by this fuel model will have noticeable mortality, usually in the Pinyon component. Mortality of Pinyon in some stands has reached 90%.

Dates to Remember: Long Mesa Fire, 7/29/02, 2,601 Acres, BI-35, ERC-25
Bolt Fire, 7/26/03, 2,160 Acres, BI-35, ERC-48

FIRE DANGER -- Pinyon/Juniper Light Dead



Fire Danger Area:

- Fuel Model H - P/J
- DRC Forecast Zone 207
- Chapin, Morfield

Fuel Model H Pinyon/Juniper Light Dead

Fire Danger Interpretation:



- EXTREME** -- Use extreme caution
- (Caution)** -- Watch for change
- Moderate** -- Lower Potential, but always be aware

Maximum -- Highest Energy Release Component by day for 1972 - 2005

Average -- shows peak fire season

90th Percentile -- Only 10% of the days from 1972 - 2005 had an Energy Release Component above 42

Local Thresholds - Watch out: Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior:
20' Wind Speed over 15 mph, RH less than 20%,
Temperature over 90, 10-Hour Fuel Moisture less than 7

Fuel Model H PINYON/JUNIPER (LIGHT DEAD) LOW ELEVATION (Under 8,500') -

The short-neededled conifers are represented by Fuel Model H. In contrast to Model G fuels, Fuel Model H describes a healthy stand with sparse undergrowth and a thin layer of ground fuels. Fires in H fuels are typically slow spreading and are dangerous only in scattered areas where the downed woody material is concentrated. However, with the recent increase in mortality affecting most pinyon and juniper stands in southwest Colorado expect to see a moderate amount of dead pinyon in these stands. In addition, an increase in cheat and other grasses and forbs has resulted in fairly continuous fine fuels underneath these pinyon and juniper stands. Increased fine dead fuels in the crowns of the pinyon combined with an increase in grass fuels on the surface will contribute to more intense fires and fires that exhibit faster rates of spread. Increased spotting may also be experienced due to the increase in receptive fuels.

Dates to Remember: House Creek Fire, 7/16/98, 800 Acres, BI-35, ERC-8
Coyote Fire, 6/17/86, 3,000 Acres, BI-17, ERC-30

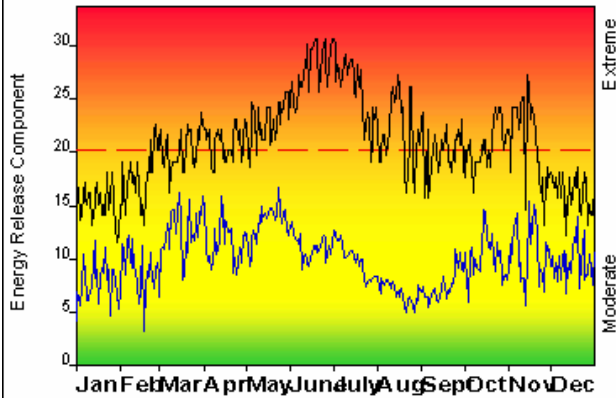


SOUTHWEST COLORADO



FIRE DANGER -- Sagebrush

Maximum, Average, and 90th Percentile



Fire Danger Area:

- ◆ Fuel Model T Sagebrush
- ◆ DRC Forecast Zone 207
- ◆ Morfield, Mesa Mtn

Fuel Model T Sagebrush

Fire Danger Interpretation:



- EXTREME** -- Use extreme caution
- (Caution)** -- Watch for change
- Moderate** -- Lower Potential, but always be aware

Maximum -- Highest Energy Release Component by day for 1984 - 2005

Average -- shows peak fire season

90th Percentile -- Only 10% of the days from 1984 - 2005 had an Energy Release Component above 20

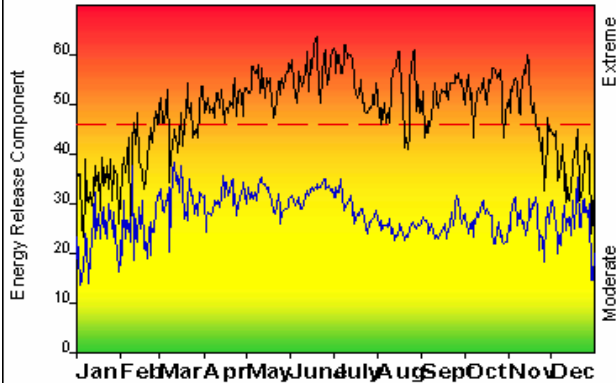
Local Thresholds - Watch out: Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior:
20' Wind Speed over 15 mph, RH less than 20%,
Temperature over 90, Woody fuel Moisture less than 90

Fuel Model T Sagebrush - Fuel Model T represents sagebrush communities in the lower elevations of Southwestern Colorado. Sagebrush flats can be found in drainage bottoms and intermixed with Pinyon/Juniper stands in flat, deeper soil areas. Sagebrush communities occur typically in areas under 7,000 feet elevation. The shrubs burn easily and are not dense enough to shade out grass and other herbaceous plants. The shrubs occupy at least one-third of the site. Large, mature sagebrush stands have plants reaching above six feet high and can produce unusually high flame lengths and fire behavior.

Dates to Remember: Cherry Creek Fire, 8/12/02, 1,360 Acres, BI-67, ERC-27
Aztec Three Fire, 7/5/87, 2,880 Acres, BI-25, ERC-28

FIRE DANGER -- Other Conifer

Maximum, Average, and 90th Percentile



Fire Danger Area:

- ◆ Fuel Model U - Conifers
- ◆ DRC Forecast Zone 207
- ◆ Salter, Devil, Sandoval

Fuel Model U Other Conifer

Fire Danger Interpretation:



- EXTREME** -- Use extreme caution
- (Caution)** -- Watch for change
- Moderate** -- Lower Potential, but always be aware

Maximum -- Highest Energy Release Component by day for 1964 - 2005

Average -- shows peak fire season

90th Percentile -- Only 10% of the days from 1964 - 2005 had an Energy Release Component above 46

Local Thresholds - Watch out: Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior:
20' Wind Speed over 15 mph, RH less than 20%,
Temperature over 90, 10-Hour Fuel Moisture less than 7

Fuel Model U OTHER CONIFER (7,000' to 9,000') - In Southwestern Colorado, Fuel Model U represents closed stands of ponderosa pine and warm/dry mixed conifer. Needle litter and small branch wood are the primary carriers of the fire. Grass and oak brush are usually precluded by the dense canopy but occur in the occasional natural opening. Fire behavior includes moderate rates of spread with torching and spotting being dependant upon availability of ladder fuels. Short crown runs are common under dry conditions due to dense canopies. Sustained crown runs are possible under drought and high wind conditions.

Dates to Remember: Schaaf 2 Fire, 8/16/02, 556 Acres, BI-54, ERC-22
Mt. Arch Fire, 6/10/96, 16,456 Acres, BI-70, ERC-22